

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 DHA-02 L-03 PA-01
PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00
INRE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 /060 W
-----112681 191111Z /23

O 190905Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8952

INFO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CARR, CT, US

SUBJ: APPARENT DETENTION OF WESTERN JOURNALISTS

REF: STATE 167239, 167330

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO GET RESPONSE FROM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO OUR REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO DETAINED AMERICAN JOURNALIST JONATHAN RANDALL. BELIEVE THAT DEPARTMENT SHOULD CALL IN CASE AMBASSADOR AS PROPOSED STATE 167330.

2. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER FOREIGN MINISTRY IS ENGAGING IN DELAYING TACTICS OR WHETHER IT IS CASE OF BUREAUCRATIC INEFFICIENCY. EMBASSY DIPLOMATIC NOTE MARKED TRES URGENT REQUESTING ACCESS TO RANDALL FOR EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICER WAS DELIVERED TO MINISTRY AT 10 A.M. LOCAL JULY 18. EMBASSY MESSENGER TRIED TO DELIVER NOTE TO SECRETARY GENERAL BUT WAS TOLD TO GO FIRST TO THE REGISTRY BY A CLERK WHO PROMISED TO BRING THE NOTE DIRECTLY TO SECRETARY GENERAL. WHEN CHARGE CALLED THAT AFTERNOON, SECRETARY GENERAL STILL HAD NOT RECEIVED NOTE, AND IT WAS CLEAR THAT MINISTRY WAS TAKING NO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTION WITHOUT NOTE. SECRETARY GENERAL WAS ABSENT MORNING OF JULY 19, SO CHARGE PROTESTED ABOUT DELAY TO CHEF DE CABINET AND REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH THE MINISTER.

3. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE TOLD CONSULAR OFFICER JULY 18 THAT HE WAS NOT AT LIBERTY TO DISCUSS CASE AND THAT ANY ANSWER WOULD HAVE TO COME THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

4. POST ALSO DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM JULY 18 WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR AND WITH THE ECONOMIC COUNSELOR TO THE EMPEROR (GUY DARLAN, TO WHOM THE AMBASSADOR HAD ALREADY MENTIONED THE JOURNALISTS' VISIT). BOTH EXPRESSED GENUINE SURPRISE AND CONCERN ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE APPARENT DETENTION. THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR POINTED OUT THAT HE WAS VIRTUALLY CUT OFF FROM HIS MINISTER, WHO WAS SPENDING ALL HIS TIME AT THE IMPERIAL COURT. IN ANY CASE, HE NOTED, A RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST FOR ACCESS COULD ONLY COME FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

5. WE ALSO INFORMED THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION ON JULY 16 OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE TWO JOURNALISTS. HE WAS CERTAIN THAT INFORMATION MINISTER YONGONGO, WHO HAD MET THE

TWO JULY 14, WAS UNAWARE OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

6. WASHINGTON POST'S MESSAGE TO BOKASSA GIVES US NO PROBLEMS AND MAY BE HELPFUL IN VIEW OF PHYSICAL SEPARATION OF GOVERNMENT AND IMPERIAL COURT.

SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: DETENTION, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PFOR, CARR, CT, US, (RANDALL, JONATHAN)
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